

DIRECTING (TPP 3311/23120)

Directing

TPP 3311

Section 23120

Spring 2024

Meeting Time and Location: T/Th 9:35am – 12:35pm

Classroom G14

Credits: 3

Professor: Lauren Caldwell (Warhol)

She/Her

(352) 538-0599

lcaldwell@arts.ufl.edu

laurencaldwell@ufl.edu

Office hours – by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Directing: An introduction to all aspects of translating a play from script to stage. Building on skill and concepts learned in Play Analysis, students will delve more deeply into script analysis and interpretation from the point of view of the director. Students will work on director's concepts, visual composition, working with actors and will study theories of Directing.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

- The student acquires a clear understanding of director's role.
- The student analyzes tools of the director and how to implement these tools.
- The student acquires a clear understanding of composition for the stage.
- The student demonstrates the ability to work effectively with actors.
- The student develops the skills to communicate to designers and production teams.
- The student demonstrates the ability of think critically about concepts and how this relates to the play and the intention of the playwright.
- The student develops the skills and objectives of collaboration.
- The student recognizes the contributions to the directing process of those whose contributions have been overlooked, appropriated, or marginalized.
- The student participates in a discussion regarding devised theatre.
- The student acquires a critical understanding of the professional world of theatre.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Catron & Shattuck, *The Director's Vision* (available through the bookstore or Amazon online)
- Additional handouts provided

Course Statement: This is an introductory class to directing. It is vital for the student to absorb the basics of directing. This safety net of knowledge will allow the student to move forward in acquiring a more in-depth knowledge and practices for the future.

Personal Statement: As a cis-gender, white female, professor and artist at the University of Florida, I am intensely aware of the role of our work in theatre as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am therefore committed to understanding my own beliefs and those of my students as we enter into community with one another. At the core of this is the idea that we demonstrate the deepest part of our humanity through interaction and caring.

DIRECTING SCENES:

Three plays provided (handout). Choose a scene from one of the three plays you would like to direct. Direct first scene (two actors) to be directed and presented in class. The second scene directed will be a different play and will incorporate the evolution of knowledge from your first presentation. Dates will be assigned to each director. (Scenes approximately 10 minutes.)

PLAYS:

Audrey Cefaly, *Alabaster*

Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, *Gloria*

Edward Albee, *The Zoo Story*

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Scene Analysis

The Art of Criticism

DIRECTOR PRESENTATIONS

The student will choose a play from the two scenes directed for the class. A *verbal* directorial presentation will be presented to the class.

CRITICAL DATES:

Scene One Presentations: January 25, 30 and February 1

Scene Two Presentations: March 19 & 21

Director Presentations: April 16 & 18

Art of Criticism: February 13 & April 18

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Directing Scenes: 50%

Written work/Participation: 30%

Final Presentation: 20%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100 - 94	4.00
A-	93 - 90	3.67
B+	89 - 87	3.33
B	86 - 84	3.00
B-	83 - 80	2.67
C+	79 - 77	2.33
C	76 - 74	2.00
C-	73 - 70	1.67
D+	69 - 67	1.33
D	66 - 64	1.00
D-	63 - 60	0.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59 - 0	0.00

UF grading policy website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>

COURSE OUTLINE (Working Outline)

Subject to change.

January 9 Introduction/Handouts

January 11 Role of the Director, Chapters 1 & 2

January 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY – NO CLASS

January 16 Thought/Idea of Play, Chapter 6

(Directing Analysis format)

January 18 Working with Actors, Chapter 14 & 15

January 23 Blocking the Play, Chapter 17

(Art of Criticism format)

January 25 Scene 1 (Analysis due)

January 30 Scene 1 (Analysis due)

February 1 Scene 1 (Analysis due)

February 6 Discussion of Scenes & Analysis

February 8 Dramaturgy

February 13 Working Professionally

(First Art of Criticism paper due)

February 15 Communication with Designers, Chapter 16

February 20 Audition Process, Chapter 11

February 22 Write a Play (in class assignment)

February 27 Write a Play *continued* (in class assignment)

February 29 Perform Plays (in class assignment)

March 5 Review all aspects of directing to this point in the course (discussions, Q & A)

March 9 -16 SPRING BREAK

March 19 Scene 2 (Analysis due) TBD

March 21 Scene 2 (Analysis due) TBD

March 26 Review Scenes & Analyses

March 28 Review format of Director Presentation

April 2 Student-assigned topic to share with class

April 4 Sound as Character

April 9 Character Descriptions

April 11 Intimacy & Violence Dossier

April 16 Director Presentations

April 18 Director Presentations continued
(Second Art of Criticism due)

April 23 TBA

April 25 CLASSES END

Expectations Regarding Behavior/Demeanor

A work ethic is required of you in this class, as an advanced level college student and future professional. Assignments will be completed in a timely, thorough fashion. They will meet a level of sophistication fitting for advanced students of the theatre.

Criteria by which *performance* work will be assessed:

- Understanding scene (story, conflict, themes & techniques)
- Devotion to course concepts
- Openness to exploration

Criteria by which *written* work will be assessed:

- Content (presentation, detail, development, and evidence of course concept knowledge)
- Quality of writing (grammar, spelling, syntax, and punctuation)

Criteria by which *participation* will be assessed:

- Frequency of participation
- Quality of comments
- Listening skills
- Behavior

Intimacy Protocol

For scenes with intimacy that requires vulnerability, intimacy, or violence, please consider these when possible:

1. Rehearse in a public location (acting studio, hallway or common room)
2. Note your boundaries; if you are uncomfortable with the scene or the manner in which the scene is being rehearsed, discuss it with your scene partner and instructor.

3. You are not required to kiss or be in close bodily contact. Discuss with your instructor and scene partner other options.

ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION

Attendance Policy:

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

Your learning comes in the shared experience. Your participation has as much to do with others' growth as your own. Your absence is costly to everyone. Students are expected to be in attendance and to be on time. Students are allowed 1 "unexcused" absence that does not require documentation and does not conform to the UF "acceptable reasons for absence." Any other "unexcused" absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per "unexcused" absence. To be considered "excused" an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official, acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness -doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature

- Serious family emergencies

- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)

- Military obligation

- Severe weather conditions (e.g., hurricane-related events)

- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate

- Court-imposed, legal obligations (jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course's instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student's continued participation in the course.

Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student's final grade.

In the same way, tardiness will also be penalized.

Each additional late arrival will result in a 5% deduction from your final score.

Policies Regarding Make-Up Work and Late Work:

Excused absences do not make one exempt from class obligations. Work must be made up in a timely fashion, at the discretion of the instructor, typically in the week following the student's return to class. Unexcused late work will be penalized with penalties increasing relative to lateness; anything past deadline is at least 1 day late.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

UF MASK POLICY:

The University of Florida will provide any policies regarding masks.

UF HONESTY POLICY: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold both ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.

UNAUTHORIZED RECORDINGS: A student shall not without express authorization from the faculty member and, if required by law, from other participants, make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings, of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting, or meeting with a faculty member.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:

UF Counseling Center

3190 Radio Rd.

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

352-392-1575

www.counsel.ufl.edu

Alachua County Crisis Center:

call 352-264-6789 | TDD/TTY 352-955-2449

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or Text 988 or Chat 988lifeline.org

National Suicide Hotline: call 1-800-784-2434 (1-800-SUICIDE)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (USA):

call 1-800-273-8255 (ayuda en español: 1-888-628-9454)

Nacional de Prevencion del Suicidio: 1-888-628-9454

Crisis Text Line: text "HOME" to 741741 (USA/Can),

686868 (Canada), 85258 (UK), 50808 (Ireland), call 13 11 14 (Australia)

The Trevor Project (for LGBTQ youth):

call 1-866-488-7386 (or text "START" to 678678)